

SPECIAL POPULATION SUBGROUPS: HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

Hispanics

Demographic Changes

- The Hispanic population in Tennessee increased from 32,742 people in 1990 to an estimated 52,302 people in 1996, an increase of approximately 60%. This was a little more than six times Tennessee's overall population increase of 9% between 1990 and 1996.
- Overall, the greatest increase in Tennessee's Hispanic population between 1990 and 1996 occurred within the Mid-Cumberland Region, which also had the greatest overall increase in population between 1990 and 1996. The Mid-Cumberland Region had the highest percentage of Hispanics in 1996 compared to the other regions in Tennessee.
- The Hispanic population in Tennessee is projected to increase to 63,617 by the Year 2000. This represents a 93% increase over Tennessee's Hispanic population in 1990. The Hispanic population accounted for 0.7% of Tennessee's total population in 1990 and approximately 1.0% of Tennessee's total population in 1996. It is projected that the Hispanic population will account for 1.1% of Tennessee's total population by the Year 2000.
- The largest increase in Tennessee's Hispanic population between 1990 and 1996 occurred within the age-group 0-4 years old, a reflection of high fertility rates. Persons aged 65 years and older registered the smallest increase in population between 1990 and 1996. In 1996, the largest percentage (36.5%) of the Hispanic population was aged 25-44 years. The smallest percentage (4.3%) was among the elderly (65 years and older).
- The Hispanic male population increased by 57%, while the Hispanic female population rose 60% between 1990 and 1996. The South Central Region of Tennessee had the largest increase in male Hispanics between 1990 and 1996. The Mid-Cumberland Region of Tennessee registered the largest increase in female Hispanics between 1990 and 1996. Demand for agricultural laborers and service workers may underlie these trends.
- In 1996, the largest percentage of Hispanics in Tennessee's population was located in the Mid-Cumberland Region (1.5%) and in four of the metropolitan regions--Shelby, Hamilton, Davidson, and Knox Counties. Of the four metropolitan regions, Davidson County had the largest percentage of Hispanics (1.4%).